

FISCAL NOTE

HB 2262 - SB 2261

February 5, 2004

SUMMARY OF BILL: Provides reimbursement of up to \$2,000 to any public school teacher in Tennessee achieving certification by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) for the fee expenses of obtaining such national certification. Present law requires the Commissioner of Education to provide reimbursement of evaluation fees for up to 25 teachers who voluntarily complete certification by the NBPTS.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Expenditures - \$51,000

Estimate assumes:

- Teachers who receive NBPTS certification will be reimbursed by the Department of Education; no local funds will be used for this purpose.
- The current application fee for NBPTS certification is \$2,300 per applicant.
- Applicants for certification are currently eligible for a subsidy of 50% of this fee through federal funding at the state level or a NBPTS Appalachian High Needs Area Grant through the Tennessee Education Association (TEA). The subsidy of \$1,150 is based on completing the application process and is not tied to achieving certification. Applicants are not reimbursed directly, but the subsidy is instead applied to the candidate's National Board account balance.
- There are 91 teachers in Tennessee who currently meet the qualifications for NBPTS certification.
- In FY03-04, there were 81 applicants for NBPTS certification. Twenty-eight of these or 35% successfully achieved certification.
- At present, there are at least 106 applicants for NBPTS certification who have applied for the subsidy for half of their application fee through the state and at least 20 who have applied for the 50% subsidy through TEA.
- Applying the success rate of 35% to the current number of applicants (126), there would be an estimated 44 successful applicants.
- Under the bill, each teacher who receives certification will receive a one-time reimbursement of only \$1,150 since each teacher has already received one-half or \$1,150 of the total application fee of \$2,300. Therefore, it is estimated that state expenditures will increase \$50,600 (\$1,150 x 44 applicants).
- Once this incentive is put into place, the number of applicants and the resulting number of national board certified (NBPTS) teachers would greatly increase after the first year of implementation.

CERTIFICATION:

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



James W. White, Executive Director